

America's

FUTURE

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ARE WE "MATERIALISTIC?"

In this season of good cheer and good will, we could not help noting some remarks by a modern-day Scrooge. He laughed sardonically at the meaning of Christmas, sneered at the materialism of Americans and their chase after money. He wanted to know how we could possibly equate our colossal selfishness with the teachings of Him whose birth we celebrate at this season.

This, of course, is a very sour outlook on life. Yet it is one which many Americans subconsciously nourish because

they are constantly drummed at about their so-called materialism, their chase after the almighty dollar. So they begin to develop a sort of inferiority complex about their way of life.

But let's take a little closer look at ourselves. It is not well to ignore our faults, but it is also unwise to overlook our virtues. Americans are fallible human beings. But they are also free people, which cannot be said of too many other peoples in the world. And in their

freedom they have developed a way of life holding within it certain inherent virtues that are much closer to Christian precepts than is the philosophy of those who berate them so eloquently. Have you ever noticed that those who condemn most vociferously our 'materialism' are often open or secret admirers of the most materialistic system of life the world has ever known - a socialism whose ultimate flowering we see in the communism that denies God and His Son and raises in Their place the unadulterated materialism of the all-powerful State?

Is it not strange that it is to the materialistic Americans that the world turns to succor it in its distress, its disease, its poverty, its destruction? And when has America ever been found want-

ing in the Christian charity which our critics claim has been killed by our materialism? It is that very materialism - actually the abundance we are able to garner because of our free system - that has enabled us to pour out our wealth generously and without stint, sometimes almost to the point of our own destruction, to all supplicants at home and abroad. Did you know, for instance, that individual Americans give at least 17 billion dollars each year to charity, churches, and the needy - and this does not include millions of small contributions? We suspect that record cannot come close to being matched by people living under any other system of life in the world, no matter how unmaterialistic our critics think they are.

GREAT FOUNDATION STONE

It really isn't so unusual that Americans, no matter how far short they fall in fulfilling Christian teaching, come somewhat closer to the ideal to which we raise our eyes at this season than many others on this troubled globe. Some of us may forget, and perhaps some of our younger citizens have never been told,

that the bedrock on which was built the United States of America had as one of its great foundation stones a belief in a Supreme Being - a truly religious basis regardless of any particular denomination or church affiliation. The pioneers who first settled America sought here the religious freedom they were

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denied in Europe. The time came when their descendants set about the difficult task of fashioning for themselves a government and a way of life that would protect them and all future generations of Americans in the freedom they had sacrificed and fought and died to win. And they recognized as the author of their hard-won liberties no mortal man, no benevolent ruler, no great state or government. The author, the Creator, of man's liberty was Almighty God. It is there for all to read and hear in the American Declaration of Independence - 'that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.' And so it is that our free system,

with its roots in the strength and meaning of a Higher Being which guides the affairs of men, finds in atheistic world communism the greatest enemy it has ever faced. At the same time, it is our way of life - despite the sneers of those who decry its abundance - which causes us to spring wholeheartedly, if not always wisely, to the help of others.

Did you notice, for example, a recent little story about a tiny country in Africa - one of those new nations we hear so much about these days? It is called Somalia. When it became independent a year ago, it turned its back on the United States and looked to Communist Russia as its guide and mentor. The Kremlin and its allies immediately moved a big mission into Somalia to administer a Soviet loan of 50 million dollars. Then not long ago Somalia suffered a terrible natural disaster. Torrential rains and floods washed away whole villages, ruined crops and killed more than 200 people. As a result, the Somalians were starving and riddled with disease. The atheistic communist Soviet mission in Somalia sat by and did nothing. But the United States - that land of materialism and selfishness, ac-

cordova to its critics - through its Air Force has been flying doctors, nurses and food into Somalia. As one American said: 'These coun-

tries kick us around, but when they get into real trouble, they yell for Uncle Sam to bail them out.'

UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES

We do not ask, of course, that Americans as individual human beings consider themselves either better or worse than other peoples. But we would do well to keep in proper perspective the sort of criticism which comes from our friends and enemies as well as from ourselves. A few weeks ago, the U.S. Commissioner of Education told a group of educators that we need a reappraisal of our moral, spiritual and intellectual values. Maybe we do, but the Commissioner's reasons were strange, to say the least. He thinks we have to reappraise these values because of the tensions of the nuclear age, and because of automation. Thus he added these two factors to all the others which are supposed to be threatening our basic values, such as automobiles, advertising, radio, television, jet travel and so on.

Those who think we have to haul out our moral, spiritual and intellectual values and

rearrange or reshuffle them every time a new invention or a new way of doing old things appear, have lost sight of the eternal truths which guide us up the ladder of civilized life. Automation, automobiles - yes, even nuclear fission - are relative things. But moral, spiritual and intellectual principles do not change. So far as Americans are concerned, they are based eternally in our Christian-Judaic heritage and in our God-given freedom. And the great threat to these unchanging principles does not come from a new machine or from a hydrogen bomb. Here at home it comes from those, no matter how kindly their motives, who would dilute or abrogate that freedom by building an ever more powerful central government - who would make government our master rather than the servant our forefathers intended it to be.

The threat to these principles from without and within comes also from the slave

system of world communism. Those who think they can compromise with this system do not seem to realize that they could thus 'reappraise' out of existence the very essence of Western civilization's moral, spiritual and intellectual principles. It is not just that communism is a slave system. It is that it is a world power-grab, a philosophy, and a way of

life which not only denies God and His Son, but is sworn to exterminate Them from the hearts and minds of men. Once we understand this, and dedicate ourselves to reject this devil's brew, we can look forward to the existence among us, as it has existed for the last 2,000 years, of the Spirit of Christmas unto eternity.

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 12/24/61

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Book Review

THE TRULY DYNAMIC SYSTEM

PROSPERITY THROUGH FREEDOM
by Lawrence Fertig, 278 pages,
Regnery, Chicago, \$3.95.

To sneer at profits, to classify capitalism as outmoded, and to place Big Government on a pedestal is fashionable nowadays in many circles. The more refreshing it is to find an inspiring book that confounds the theories of Marx and tears to shreds the theories of the apostles of the mixed, government-controlled economy. This book spotlights, too, the advantages of capitalism in comparison with the corrupt system of the collectivists

and puts the reader on guard against the pitfalls on the road ahead for the American economy.

The permeating concept of PROSPERITY THROUGH FREEDOM is *freedom for the individual*. Based on this premise, the author examines all major facets of our national economy such as wages, prices, the function of profit and employment. The problems of inflation, economic growth and government intervention receive full attention and are discussed thoroughly and with much insight. The role of the labor union in the free

society is brought into focus with proper emphasis on the rights of individual workers.

Mr. Fertig leaves no doubt that the future growth of the American economy can be best assured by a 'hands off' policy on the part of the federal government. Economic growth in order to be beneficial must be based on sound capital accumulation and not on inflationary monetary policies or government deficit financing. By providing the incentives for the individual, the free economy can supply its own momentum for future development. The practical value of Mr. Fertig's suggestions is emphasized by the phenomenal growth of the West German economy. Mr. Fertig tells the little-known story of how the Germans ignored the advice of some American proponents of the theories of Lord Keynes. By adhering to the principles of the Free Market the Germans then laid the groundwork for one of the world's most dynamic economies which in itself is definite proof of the inherent strength and productivity of the capitalist system.

Mr. Fertig deals with another bogeyman of our time—the myth of tremendous Soviet growth. Based on facts and

figures, some of them supplied by the Soviets themselves, the record is set straight on the so-called 'achievements' of the socialist economy. Soviet agriculture is shown as 'the Achilles heel of communism.'

The author of this book is an accomplished journalist with a wide background in the field of economics both as a scholar and the head of his own marketing and advertising firm. For many years he has written a column on economic affairs for the Scripps-Howard Newspapers. His journalistic experience finds expression in a crisp style which makes difficult problems easily understood and theoretical discussions a pleasure to read and absorb. Mr. Fertig's clear-cut, straight-to-the-point exposition is one of the finest attributes of his book. It sets it apart from the dry and ponderous tomes on economics with which many of us had to struggle at one time or another.

It is our hope that PROSPERITY THROUGH FREEDOM will be read widely. Mr. Fertig's forthright book deserves the deep consideration of every thoughtful citizen who is concerned about the survival of the capitalist system. And

how about all those among us, including many students, who have been fed on a strict diet of Keynesian theories?

PROSPERITY THROUGH FREEDOM could serve as a most effective antidote.

- John C. Wetzel

STRANGE CONTRADICTION

"The funny thing about 'progressive educators' is that theory vanishes when the referee's whistle blows for the kick-off. In the classroom they pretend to grade subjectively, against the student's supposed capacity, lest he be humiliated by natural inadequacy. But on the football field they never put in a one-legged halfback on the theory that, considering his disability, he's a great halfback. They put in the best halfback they've got, period. The ungifted sit on the bench or back in the stands even though they, too, might thirst for glory. If our schools were as anxious to turn out brains as they are to turn out winning football teams this strange contradiction wouldn't exist."

- Jenkin Lloyd Jones, editor
of the Tulsa (Okla.) TRIBUNE

NOT WITH A GARDEN HOSE

"There is no such thing as a 'middle-of-the-road answer' to the communist conspiracy. What we need is a vigorous psychological and economic offensive. This is a far more 'logi-

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cal approach' to the communist conspiracy than 'moderate coexistence.' A friend of mine has said, 'We cannot fight communism with moderation any more than we could fight the recent Mandeville Canyon fire with a garden hose.'

"The American people want a firm, straightforward, dynamic plan for victory over communism, not the worn-out approach of planned welfarism, strategic retreat, and calm coexistence. Our American heritage is a history of vigorous constitutional freedom, not Fabian socialistic appeasement."

— Cong. John H. Rousselot

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